are black; bill and feet red. Front and sides of head frequently spotted with dull rusty reddish. Young, dull bluish or pale lead colored on the head and upper parts of body.

2. Anser albatus, Cassin.

Anser albatus, Cass. Proc. Acad. Philada., 1856, p. 41.

Smaller than the preceding, about the size of *Bernicla Hutchinsii* or *B. albifrons*. Total length about 25 inches, wing 15½, tail 5¾, bill along the culmen 2, tarsus 3 inches. White, ends of primaries black; bill and feet red. Young, dull bluish cinereous.

3. Anser Rossii, Baird.

Smaller than either of the preceding, and the smallest goose known to inhabit North America. About the size of the Mallard Duck, (*Anas Boschas.*) Total length about 21 inches; wing 14½; tail 5; bill along the culmen 1½; tarsus 2½ inches. Bill strongly warted or carunculated in front and on its sides near and at its base. Entire plumage white; ends of primaries black; bill and feet red, both probably darker than in either of the preceding.

4. Anser cœrulescens, (Linnæus.)

Anas cœrulescens, Linn. Syst. Nat. i. p. 198 (1766.)

About the size of *A. albatus*, or of *Bernicla Hutchinsii*. Total length about 24 inches; wing 16; tail 5½; bill along the culmen 2¼; tarsus 3 inches. Tertiary quills rather long and inclined to curve downwards. Head and neck white; body above and below dark ashy brown, nearly black on the back; rump and upper tail coverts ashy white; abdomen and under tail coverts white; wing coverts light cinereous; primary quills black; tertiaries dark brown, widely edged with pale ashy. Bill and feet red.

The last species has been regarded by American naturalists as the young of *Anser hyperboreus*, and is figured as such by both Wilson and Audubon, but, I am confident, without sufficient evidence that such is the fact. The young of both *A. hyperboreus* and *A. albatus* are in the collection of this Academy, and are quite different from this species.

April 2d.

Mr. Lea, President, in the Chair.

Forty-four members present.

Mr. Lea exhibited a specimen of slag from the iron furnace of McKelney, Neal & Co, Bloomsburg, Pa. It was in the form of a cotton-like mass of spun glass, and about two tons of the material were blown out in one hour.

Papers were presented for publication, entitled

"On the identity of the genera Neomaenis of Girard, and Lutjanus of Bloch, by Theo. Gill."

"Revision of the genera of Sciæninæ of North America, by Theo. Gill."

And were referred to Committees.

The number of the Proceedings for March was laid upon the table.

Mr. Cope stated, that he had an opportunity, during a recent visit to the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, of instituting comparisons between certain genera and species of reptiles. These resulted in his conviction of the necessity

of certain changes of nomenclature, some of which he briefly noticed. He would now place as synonyms of Tantilla *Baird* and *Girard*, *Homalocranium* Dum., and *Lioninia** Hallow., excluding the species of Duméril which possess a loreal shield, under the name Scolecophis *Fitz.*, *Scolecophis fumiceps*† Cope, was Tantilla nigriceps *Kenn.* The appended synopsis was offered, for the purpose of facilitating the recognition of the species.‡

Tæniophis imperialis‖ he found to be a fourth species of Coniophanes. He agreed with Dr. Girard§ that Tæniophis was a synonym of Dromicus; the T. vermiculaticeps¶ belongs to a distinct genus—but he was not prepared to name it. *Tropidonotus compsolæmus*** Cope, he now believed to be a T. compressicaudus *Cope*,†† with a very slight compression of the tall, and the markings above and below obsolete. The probable identity of *Trop. medusa*‡‡ Gthr. with T. Clarkii,‖‖ suggested by Prof. Baird, he had since been able to verify; a comparison, also, of *Ablabes purpureocauda*§§ Gthr. with Contia mitis¶¶ *Bd.* and *Grd.*, likewise suggested by Prof. Baird, had resulted in their identification.

In the course of an examination of the specimens collected by the North Pacific Exploring Expedition, he had observed, that *Lepidocephalus fasciatus****

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* Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci., Phil., 1860, p. 484.
† Op. cit. 1860, p. 371. Locality "Cuba," probably erroneous.

‡ Tantilla *Bd.* and *Grd.* Catal. Serp. Smiths. Inst. 1853, p. 131.

I. One postocular plate.
Superior labials seven, - - - - - - - - - - planiceps.
Superior labials six; postnasal in contact with preocular; symphyseal and geneial separated by labials, - - - - gracilis.
Superior labials six; postfrontals in contact with labials; genials in contact with symphyseal, - - - - - - - - Hallowellii.

II. Two postoculars, (superior labials seven.)

α. Body unicolor, or longitudinally banded.

* Postfrontals widely separated from super-labials.
Tail between one third and one-fourth the total length, - - - reticulata.
Tail one-fifth the total length; postnasal equal second superior labial, - - - - - - - - - - - coronata.

** Postfrontals in contact with, or scarcely separated from superior labials.
A dark half-collar; postnasal much smaller than second superior labial, - - - - - - - - - - - melanocephala.
No dark half-collar; rostral plate prominent, acute; symphyseal plate in contact with geneials, - - - - - - - vermiformis.
No dark half-collar; rostral plate obtuse; symphyseal and geneial plates separated by anterior inferior labials, - - - nigriceps. (*a*)

β. Body semiannulate.
With narrow yellow bands upon black ground, - - - - laticeps. (*b*)
With black of equal breadth with the intervals of white ground, - semicincta.

‖ U. S. and Mex. Bound. Surv. Zoology, Reptiles, p. 23, pl. 19, f. 1.
§ Herpetology of U. S. Exploring Exp. p. 161.
¶ Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. 1860, p. 249.
** Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. 1860, p. 368.
†† *Nerodia compressicauda* Kenn. Op. cit. 1860, p. 335.
‡‡ Catal. Brit. Mus. p. 78.
‖‖ *Regina Clarkii*, Bd. and Grd. Catal. p. 48. Mex. Bound. Surv. Reptiles, p. 17.
§§ Catal. Brit. Mus. p. 245.
¶¶ Catal Serp. Smiths. Inst. p. 110.
*** Proceed. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila. 1860, p. 498.

(*a*) Kennicott, Proc. A. N. S. 1860, p. 328. (*b*) Gunther, P. Z. S. 1860, p. 240.

Hallow. was identical with Eumesodon s e m i c a r i n a t u s[a] *Cope;* also that *Aepidea*[b] Hallow. could not be distinguished from Gonyosoma *Wagl.*

He stated that he had also noted that Dr. Girard's Rhabdion o c c i p i t a l e[c] from Australia, was a Najid of the genus Glyphodon[d] *Gthr.*; perhaps distinct from the species described by the latter author. Callirhinus[e] of the same author was not isodont, as stated by him, but glyphodont, and bearing some resemblance to Malpolon *Fitz.* Simotes a n c o r u s expressed the true generic association of his *Xenodon ancorus*[f]; it is from Luzon, and identical with *Simotes phœnochalinus*[g] Cope. The *Erythrolamprus venustissimus* of the same author,[h] is properly E. a l b o s t o l a t u s[i] *Cope.*

Specimens of Lepidosternum F l o r i d a n u m *Baird*[k] were exhibited. Mr. Cope stated that this Amphisbænian reptile was evidently typical of a form generically distinct from Lepidosternum, which he would name Rhineüra. In the form of the head, and presence of nasal shields it resembled Phractogonus *Hallow.* from Africa; in the shielding of the crown and absence of preanal pores it was similar to Lepidosternum. It differed from both in the depressed, superiorly tuberculous tail. This structure was appropriate to its burrowing habits. The eyes, if existing, were entirely invisible. According to Prof. Baird, the R. F l o r i d a n a was common in the country from which it takes its name. It emerges from its subterranean retreats after thunder showers; hence its vernacular name of "Thunder Worm."

The specific characters were as follows: A broad crescentic rostral plate: immediately posterior to this on the median line are an oblong frontal, broader than long, and a large irregularly pentagonal vertical, with its posterior angle prolonged between two small occipitals; three small plates on each side of the vertical. Four superior labials on each side—the last three times the size of the third. The first separated from that of the other side by a trapezoid inferior rostral, and bounded above by a transversely elliptical nasal, which is pierced by the nostral above its centre. Three loreal plates in a series behind the nasal and above the labials—the first much the longest. Superior maxillary teeth five on each side; the anterior pair longest; inter-maxillary one; mandibular, each ramus, six. Inferior labials three or four; one symphyseal, one pair genials, one mento-labial on each side. Sternal plates small, irregular, about twelve in number. Vent very crescentic; three pairs of preanal plates in a longitudinal series. Fourteen rings upon the tail, all more or less tuberculous superiorly except the two basal ones. Color dirty white; upper surface of the head yellowish.

April 9th.

Mr. Lea, President, in the Chair.

Forty-nine members present.

A paper was presented for publication, entitled

"On the marine shells brought by Mr. Drexler from Hudson's Bay, and on the occurrence of a Pleistocene deposit on the Southern shore of James' Bay, by W. Stimpson," and was referred to a Committee.

Mr. Cope made some remarks defining the following species of Reptilia Squamata: two of them he regarded as representing genera not previously known. He said: The generic form which I propose calling Diphalus, belongs

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[a] Op. cit. 1860, p. 263. [b] Op. cit. 1860, p. 488. [c] Herpetology U. S. Expl. Exped. p. 120. [d] Catal. Colubr. Brit. Mus. p. 210. [e] Herpetology U. S. Expl. Exped. p. 139. [f] Op cit. p. 167. [g] Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila. 1860, p 244. [h] Herpetology U. S. Expl. Exped. p. 169. [i] Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila. 1860, p. 250. [k] Op. cit. 1858, p. 253.